CHAPTER 3, TEST A

True/False (1 point each)

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

___  1. The Constitution has been amended without use of the constitutional process.

___  2. A conservative approach to lawmaking is a quality associated with a unicameral legislature.

___  3. A two-chamber legislature demonstrates the principle of separation of powers.

___  4. As it is described in the Constitution, the United States court system could have taken any number of different forms.

___  5. The elastic clause in the Constitution suggests that its framers wanted Congress to be stronger than it had been under the Articles of Confederation.

Matching (2 points each)

Match each item with the statement describing it.

a. amendment  
   i. judicial review

b. article  
   j. legislative supremacy

c. checks and balances  
   k. limited government

d. electoral college  
   l. parliamentary system

e. federalism  
   m. popular sovereignty

f. formal amendment  
   n. Preamble

g. fusion of power  
   o. presidential system

h. judicial power

___  6. one of the first seven “rules” of the Constitution

___  7. method of changing the Constitution that requires approval of state legislatures

___  8. body created by the Constitution that votes directly for presidential candidates

___  9. form of government where the executive office is determined independently of the legislature

___  10. political strategy of giving each branch of government some control over the others

___  11. political philosophy that states the right to govern is given or taken away by the people

___  12. power-sharing arrangement between regional and national governments

___  13. act of determining whether a law violates the Constitution
14. the sharing or overlapping of roles between different branches of government

15. government model in which the executive office depends more on the legislature than the people for power

**Multiple Choice (3 points each)**
*Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

16. To pass the law that set up the federal court system, Congress used
   a. the Constitution’s intentional vagueness.
   b. the tradition of informal amendment.
   c. the “necessary and proper clause.”
   d. All of the above

17. The Constitution’s briefness shows its framers concern that it be
   a. understandable to the people.
   b. useful for the future.
   c. ratified and carried out quickly.
   d. All of the above

18. What was the main concern for the framers of the Constitution in setting up an executive office?
   a. establishing an order of succession
   b. giving the president too much power
   c. preventing immigrants from holding the office
   d. creating political division

19. The electoral college is an example of
   a. indirect and direct democracy.
   b. informal and formal amendment.
   c. separation of powers and fusion of powers.
   d. original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction.

20. Which argument was *not* used to support the idea of appointing a president for life?
   a. An unelected president was less likely to let popular opinion influence his decisions.
   b. A lifetime appointee wouldn’t worry about winning Congress’s approval.
   c. The decision of whom to lead the country was too important to be left to the people.
   d. Appointments prevented a wealthy candidate from “buying” the election.

21. Under the Constitution, how was the judiciary created to be “the least dangerous” branch?
   a. The Supreme Court would make few decisions, compared to the other branches.
   b. The Court was empowered to judge, but not interfere with, another branch’s actions.
   c. The requirements for appointment to the Court favored older, less activist judges.
   d. The Court’s decision needed a larger proportion of votes compared to the legislature.
22. Why is the Preamble an important part of the Constitution?
   a. It abolishes the Articles of Confederation.
   b. It declares that the Constitution has been democratically ratified.
   c. It affirms the people’s right to self-governance.
   d. It establishes the three branches of the government.

23. Which act is not part of the essential responsibilities of a government?
   a. A candidate campaigns for a political office.
   b. A legislature debates a spending bill.
   c. An executive signs a law passed by the legislature.
   d. The judiciary narrows the situations where a law can be applied.

24. “[T]he Government is merely a servant -- merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative [right] to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them.” (Documents Related to “Diaries Antedating the Flood”)

The above quote from Mark Twain describes what principle of the Constitution?
   a. separation of powers
   b. popular sovereignty
   c. limited government
   d. federalism

25. Which one of these acts would be enforceable under the Constitution?
   a. The Supreme Court votes to impeach the president.
   b. Congress votes to lower a tax on imported goods.
   c. The president orders a Supreme Court justice to resign.
   d. Congress rejects a presidential pardon.
26. The chart above summarizes Articles I through III of the French Constitution. Where would you expect to find the same information in the American Constitution?
   a. the Preamble  
   b. the articles  
   c. the amendments  
   d. All of the above

27. What two constitutional principles does the above cartoon illustrate?
   a. federalism and bicameral legislation  
   b. popular sovereignty and the electoral college  
   c. checks and balances and separation of powers  
   d. judicial review and original jurisdiction
28. Authorization for emergency spending to help victims of a natural disaster would stand the best chance of passing in a(n)
   a. bicameral legislature.
   b. unicameral legislature.
   c. parliamentary system.
   d. original jurisdiction.

29. How are amendments arranged in the Constitution?
   a. alphabetically
   b. by length
   c. by importance
   d. in the order in which they were adopted

30. Which is an example of a legislative check on another branch?
   a. impeaching an official
   b. vetoing a bill
   c. pardoning a convicted person
   d. declaring a law unconstitutional

**Short Answer**

*Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. (5 points each)*

31. Why did the framers of the Constitution describe the legislative branch in such detail?

32. Explain the relationship between the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.

**Essay**

*Answer one of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)*

33. Contrast the requirements and terms of each house of Congress. How do these conditions relate to the particular qualities each chamber was designed to have?

34. Compare the ways U.S. senators were elected before and after the Seventeenth Amendment. What change in political attitude does this change in process reflect?

35. Contrast the two basic ways of amending the Constitution.

36. Describe unicameral and bicameral legislatures. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each one?